

hope we can agree to send a loud, direct, forceful, and clear message rejecting intimidation, harassment, and hate speech; and we can start by rejecting Steve Bannon.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR BILL RICKETTS OF THE PRINCE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pastor Bill Ricketts, who has faithfully served the Lord for 43 years at Prince Avenue Baptist Church, a treasure in the 10th District of Georgia. He has been in ministry since 19 years of age and has lived in accordance with the Word of God and in the service of others.

Under his leadership, the church has literally flourished and become a cornerstone of the Christian faith in the Athens, Georgia, community and far beyond just Athens. Today, literally hundreds of pastors and missionaries have emerged from his 43 years as pastor at Prince Avenue. It truly is an inspiring story, and he is leaving a legacy that deserves the highest recognition.

Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Pastor Bill Ricketts on his retirement as senior pastor at Prince Avenue Baptist Church. I am extremely grateful to have such a devoted man of God in our community and I am sincerely grateful for his friendship and his service.

I give my best to Pastor Bill; his wife, Darla; and his family as they begin this new chapter. May the spirit of God continue to bless the Ricketts family and the congregation at Prince Avenue Baptist Church.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of National Apprenticeship Week.

In conversations with employers in my district at companies like Ward Leonard in Thomaston and Forum Plastics in Waterbury, I hear about how our businesses struggle to find employees with the right skills.

Apprenticeship programs give workers the hands-on training they need to close that skills gap. In Connecticut, our community colleges are helping workers get the skills they need to land high-paying, in-demand jobs. But there is more we must do to help both workers and small-business owners.

That is why I introduced the TECH Careers Act. This bill will open the door for more Americans to have successful careers in 21st-century fields and help small businesses access a qualified pool of talented and skilled

workers. If we close the skills gap and raise folks up into the middle class, everyone benefits.

CONGRATULATING JOHN NIELSEN OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mayor John Nielsen for his service as the chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors.

Under John's leadership, the county expanded its groundwater replenishment system, and OCSB made structural changes that allow it to focus on regional wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.

John was also instrumental in advocating for legislation at the State level to allow water agencies to bottle their potable reused water. California's 5-year drought has highlighted our need to diversify our water portfolio to ensure water security, and John's attention to this issue demonstrates his commitment to the residents of Orange County.

I thank John for his hard work and leadership, and I congratulate him on his success. I wish him all the best as he continues to serve our community.

REJECT STEVE BANNON'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hold this dear little book with affection and great respect. I am so proud to be an American who has a country that is based upon this Constitution and, of course, the Bill of Rights.

That is why I rise today to raise the question of the ugliness of racism in the aftermath of the Presidential elections as offered by the individuals who prevail. It is true that we now have in the White House an individual that is not befitting of the diversity of this Nation or my city of Houston where there are 98-plus counsel general officers and 98 languages spoken in our schools.

Just 2 days after Donald Trump's election, reports are coming in from across the Nation suggesting a sharp rise in anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant attacks. Remember, we are a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.

We know that in the Breitbart world that Mr. Bannon has had headlines: Birth control makes women unattractive; hoist it high and proud, the Confederate flag proclaims a glorious heritage; after Pulse Club massacre, it is time for gays to come home to the Republican Party; birth control makes people crazy.

Let me simply say it is time for Mr. Trump to do a major speech to reject

this kind of hatred and this kind of rejection of the American people.

Why is there such silence? And why is Mr. Bannon still in the White House?

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RECOGNIZING TRAVIS WOOD OF THE WORLD CHAMPION CHICAGO CUBS

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, who says pitchers can't hit? I rise today to recognize Travis Wood of the World Champion Chicago Cubs, who became the first relief pitcher since 1924 to hit a home run.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Travis attended Bryant High School, where he starred in baseball and football. He led Bryant to a State championship during his junior season and was Arkansas Gatorade Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005.

Choosing to go straight to professional baseball out of high school, Travis was drafted 60th overall in the 2005 MLB draft by the Cincinnati Reds.

Beginning his career with the Cubs in 2012, Travis soon became a key part of their bullpen and was named to his first All-Star selection in 2013. During the Cubs' championship 2016 season, Travis posted a 4-0 record with a 2.95 ERA in 77 appearances.

Congratulations on a great season, and I look forward to following your continued success. Let's not wait another 100 years.

ARKANSAS CENTURY FARMING FAMILIES

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 2012, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture began the Arkansas Century Farm Program. This program honors those Arkansas farm families who have owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years. Since 2012, 297 Arkansas farms and families have been inducted in the Arkansas Century Farm Program, and on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, an additional 44 families were recognized by the program, including 14 families representing 10 counties in Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, there is something special to be said for those families that continue to dedicate their time and treasure to the land that has provided for their families over many generations. They wisely manage our natural resources, tend to livestock entrusted to their care, drive our economy forward, and pass down a special way of life to future generations. Our farm families know and understand that, if they take care of the land, it will, in turn, take care of them.